

Braidburn Parent Council



Office Bearers:

Chairperson: Kirsty Watt
Vice Chair: Gail Morris

Secretary: Lesley Munro
Treasurer: Claire O'Connor

Minutes of Braidburn Parent Council

Date of Meeting – Monday 12 October 2020

Present at Meeting

AB Parent
KW Parent
LM Parent
LF Parent
SC Parent
GM Parent
AN Parent
CA Parent
CO Parent
LMcD Parent
CW Braidburn School
BW Braidburn School
CM Braidburn School
AG Edinburgh City Council
NB Co-opted member

1. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies were received from JS and EF

2. Approval of Minutes from 2019 AGM

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's report

LF gave her chair's report and stated that it was lovely to see so many people present. Online hosting is making the meeting more accessible for people and increasing participation. The Parent Council had been very active until Covid hit. It has been quite a year with school stopping and blended

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education coming in. LF thanked PC members for continuing to attend and advocating for the children.

4. Treasurer's report

KW informed the meeting that Covid means that accounts are not yet signed off and monies due from the council have not yet come in. We currently have £1432 in the bank. £500 was allocated for story bags, however, not all of this has been spent. We have a healthy balance so we may want to allocate more to the school.

5. Head Teacher's report

The Head Teacher's report is attached. CW also confirmed that school were aware of transport issues. CW also clarified the budget for support staff and that there is additional funding for supply staff and closing the gap teachers. Scottish Government gave additional funding for attainment gap, this is 1 teacher per special school including Braidburn. This is on top of recruitment for supply PSA and supply teachers. CM confirmed that in Covid times, schools have been told that they can charge cost of supply cover to SEP budget to make sure schools can access staff.

KW asked about the quantity of supply staff that we are having to use at the current time. CM confirmed that the school often uses supply staff. We are lucky to have core of supply staff that are known to the staff and learners. The school is also accessing agency staff. CW confirmed that if extra staff are required, they are drawn from the bubble first and only once the bubble is exhausted does the school use external supply staff.

6. Election of Office Bearers

Chair - GM proposed KW and LM seconded the nomination.

Vice Chair – LM proposed GM and KW seconded the nomination.

Secretary – LF proposed LM and GM seconded the nomination.

Treasurer – KW proposed CO and GM seconded the nomination.

7. Members and Co-opted members of the Parent Council

Co- opted member – KW proposed NB and GM seconded the nomination.

8. Update on review of constitution and adoption for 2020/2021

KW and LM updated the constitution using the CONNECT template and Pilrig Park School's constitution as a model.

KW suggested we remove the clause that states that an office bearer has to give up their position if they fail to attend 3 meetings in a row. AN and GM suggested that we retain this

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clause and only ask somebody to give up their position if they do not attend for 3 meetings **and** do not apologise for missing the meetings.

LF suggested that the office bearers' posts can be held for a maximum of 3 years, however, they may need to stay in position if nobody offers to take up the position at the end of the 3 years.

KW and LM will update the constitution to reflect the comments made and bring the document to the next meeting. Action KW and LM

Matters relating to Data Protection and accessibility will be removed from the document and discussed at the next meeting. We can refer to CONNECT's template and Woodlands School's data protection policy for guidance. Action LM

9. Approval of minutes of previous meeting (31/08/20)

The minutes were approved. CW pointed out that photographs were distributed of each class, but not the bubble as the learners are working mainly in their class and not the bubble.

10. Communication Group update

The Communication Group were looking at learning journals. LL is going to take these forward and a questionnaire will be issued after the October break.

11. Update of review of Curriculum Approach

An update on this is included in the Head Teacher's report.

12. Current COVID approach (communication and transport)

SC raised the issue that secondary pupils in Edinburgh are not receiving the annual flu vaccination in school this year, however, learners in special schools in other regions are receiving it in school. Other parents and carers have reported issues in obtaining the flu vaccination from their GPs or at the health board's Flu Clinics. AN informed the meeting that GPs had been late in receiving the guidance for children with special needs and it had only been received in last couple of days. KW has researched the issue and the advice she was given was that secondary aged learners with special needs are to receive their vaccination from their GP by injection or nasal spray.

LF raised the issue that when the school closures were announced no consideration was given to the health needs of the learner, especially those who received health related support in school. A plan should be created and put in place to support these learners as the council, health board and government all have a duty of care in the provision of health care for these learners during the lockdown and/or isolation period. KW suggested that LENS criteria should be applied to those learners who receive support with feeding, etc.

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LF pointed out that if the authorities are considering to close schools, then other impacts on our learners should be considered, not just the impact of COVID. KW raised the issue that an emergency plan may contain support from organisations such as Positive Paths, however, if you are isolating you do not get this support. AG highlighted that educationalist cannot challenge or counter advice from the health authorities. LF felt however, they had a role to advocate strongly for our learners. AG offered to speak to Health Protection regarding medical support for learners with medical needs and also to Gail Mickle and interested parents. AG also informed the meeting that PAG meeting minutes can be accessed via FOI request. The PAG meetings consider the duty of care staff have towards learners with special needs.

Action AG

KW has attended a seminar hosted by CHAS and Kindred. Jason Leitch was present and said that concerned parents of children with medical needs should contact their Clinical Support Team. GM added that since learners at Braidburn and Oaklands have significant medical needs they need to be taken into account when school closures are being considered. AN suggested that if school closures are being considered which will have an impact on the medical provision given to our learners, then a risk assessment is required. AG confirmed that schools should be completing risk assessments in relation to a learner's mental and physical health. LF suggested that a list of learners whose medical wellbeing is at risk should be created as, for some learners, school is not just about education. Public Health authorities need to be aware of all the issues relevant to our children when a school is closed and all factors must be considered.

Action AG

AB again raised the issue that some transport staff are still not wearing a face covering.

13. Braidburn Parent Council Matters

13.1 Edinburgh Parent Council Network

The recent meeting of this group mainly discussed SQA exams and outdoor education.

13.2 Special Schools City Wide Locality Meetings.

Transport issues were discussed at this meeting, including the issues surrounding the wearing of masks. Transition from school to adult services was also discussed. There is concern over the lack of positive destinations after school and limitations put on services due to COVID. AG informed the meeting that a paper discussing transitions to adult services was prepared in 2018 to update the combined adult and children services document. MG was involved in its production. LF suggested that we invite MG along to a future parent council meeting to discuss.

Action AG

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GM has set up a Facebook page for parents and carers whose children are approaching the age for transition to adult services or are in adult services already.

13.3 CCwP

The council are currently 6 months behind in building projects, so this has delayed the building of canopies in playgrounds to facilitate outdoor learning in poor weather.

Issues were also raised at this meeting in respect to sports clubs etc. that take place after school and are not yet reinstated for learners in state schools. Private schools are able to hire council facilities and allow their clubs to start back.

The cost of COVID to the council was also discussed. It is reckoned that it will cost the council £90m. The Scottish Government and Westminster Government will contribute £30m to this expense.

14. Headteacher and Friends of Braidburn update

A copy of the Headteacher's report is attached. FOBS are holding their next meeting 2nd Nov.

15. AOB

AG confirmed that some changes have been made to the senior leadership team in the Children and Families division of the council which will be in place until March 2021. AG will now look after Education and SD will now look after Social Work.

GM will set up a group on the app 'Class Lists' for Braidburn School parents and carers. This app is used in other schools in Edinburgh and is fully GDPR compliant.